

## COOCVE Board of Directors

Meeting, June 16, 2009

President Steve Fine as Chair called the Meeting to Order at approximately 9:38 a.m. Sergeant-at-Arms Art Dove counted attendance of 125 directors, constituting a quorum.

Deputy Jim Engle spoke after the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence. He reported a number of minor crimes, many of them avoidable such as reports of items left unattended that disappeared, an unlocked car with prescription drugs inside that were taken, and falling for a money scam of an offer from an unknown party overseas that was clearly too good to be true.

A director asked for guidance on turning right legally and safely exiting the Village on Hillsboro to turn north on Military Trail. Sheriff Engle said it is OK to move to the left when traffic permits, but if traffic is too heavy to change lanes right away, instead go straight on Hillsboro an extra traffic light to Lock Road and turn left, which will take you back to Military.

After the Sheriff's report, the Chair called for a reading of the Minutes of the Board's previous meeting of May 19, 2009. The directors moved to waive the reading of those Minutes, and approved the Minutes as published in the June 2009 issue of the *CVE Reporter*.

Steve then gave the President's report. He referred to a previous discussion on COOCVE's renting buses to take residents to Broward County Commission meetings and hearings so that we can show support to maintaining intact the Century Plaza Library. Steve mentioned an article by Elizabeth Roberts in the *Sun-Sentinel* the day before, which stated that the Century Plaza Library gets on average 12,000 visitors a week, much higher than many other libraries in the County.

Bernie Parness noted that the main criteria for the Commission are usage and cost, and that although the Century Plaza building is highly utilized, it is in a rented facility which costs the County more to operate than the Percy White library which the County owns. Bernie said that the Century Plaza Library is on the Commission's agenda for August, and the Commission has asked that we don't come to speak about the Library at the June meeting since there are plenty of other matters on the Agenda. Bernie

noted also that the City of Deerfield Beach, Mayor and the City Commissioners, had written a letter to the County Commission to oppose cuts to the budget of the Century Plaza Library.

Steve Fine announced that the November 2009 issue of the *CVE Reporter* would be a special "Veteran's Day" issue, and asked for residents to send in for publication a photo of themselves in uniform, and one of themselves today.

Steve then mentioned that COOCVE had received a letter (dated June 4, 2009) from Deerfield Beach's Department of Public Works, disclaiming liability for damage to dumpster enclosures, and alleging that many buildings are "in violation" of lacking proper buffers. Steve said he had asked the City for specifics.

Treasurer Ken Barnett reported that as of May 31, 2009, COOCVE's bank accounts totaled \$322,538. We have now collected dues from all but three Associations, and Ken said he had requested help from Seacrest in one case and East Coast Management in the other who each provide management services to one of the past-due Associations. For the first five months of the year, COOCVE had over \$67,000 of income from dues collected, and expenses of just under \$27,000, resulting in net income of about \$40,000.

The Chair then gave the floor to Mel Schmier of the Bylaws Committee, to submit two amendments to COOCVE's bylaws, after due notice at previous Meetings and through publication in the *CVE Reporter*. Mel noted that a bylaws amendment requires a 2/3 favorable vote, and read aloud in turn each motion.

The first Motion was to add to Sec. 8.5. of the Bylaws: "No person may apply for nomination to more than one office of the Corporation. No person may be nominated, in any manner, for an office in the Corporation, or as a Director of CVE Master Management Co., Inc., or as a member of the Recreation Committee, if their election would result in their service in more than one of the aforementioned offices."

After the Motion received a Second, discussion ensued. Bernie Parness spoke in favor of the Amendment, saying it was necessary to avoid "dictators". Bernie asked to amend the Amendment to require existing officers to resign if they are in violation of this new prohibition. Beverly Chase questioned the impact of the Amendment, saying it was already difficult to get enough people to volunteer for all positions. In that regard,

Rhonda Pitone noted that if we don't get candidates for all positions, there is the danger that they get appointed without vote. Beverly Chase asked that the Amendment allow people to run for a second office, if they commit to resign from their existing office if they are in fact elected to the new one.

Dan Glickman questioned the need for the Amendment as a way to prevent concentration of power, noting that the officers of Master Management are elected by a Board of 15 directors, and the officers of the Recreation Committee by a Board of seven directors.

Parliamentarian Gene Goldman opined that the Bylaws specify that amendments must come through the Bylaws Committee, so the directors could not consider any amendments from the floor, but must vote on the Amendments as presented by the Bylaws Committee. The Chair called the Question.

The directors approved the Motion by a vote of 95 in favor, exceeding the 2/3 level of 84 votes required for passage.

Mel Schmier then read the second motion, to be added to Sec. 8.7 of the bylaws:

"The Nominating Committee shall conduct the election of COOCVE Officers and Sgts-at-Arms, members of the Recreation Committee and the election of the members of the Board of Directors of Master Management."

Mel explained that this Amendment merely described what was already our practice, but was simply not mentioned in the bylaws. After brief discussion, during which several directors asked what criteria does the President use to qualify members to serve on the Nominating Committee, the Chair called for a vote.

The directors voted in favor of the Amendment, all voting "yes" except for one abstention.

Under "New Business", Bill Goddard made a Motion to authorize the President to disburse funds necessary to hire buses to take residents to Broward County Commission Meeting in support of the Century Plaza Library. After discussion, during which directors noted that this Motion did not set a cap and was thus left up to the discretion of the President, the directors approved the Motion with three voting "nay".

Judy Schneider made a motion to hold a "Candidates Forum" at least two weeks before COOCVE's fall elections (for Master Management and Recreation Committee

directors), at which all candidates can address and respond to COOCVE's directors about their qualifications for office. Directors approved this Motion, with two opposed.

In "Open Mic", Basil Hales said the air conditioning was not working on Sunday in the #5 and #6 buses, and noted that our contract requires Community Bus to maintain two spare buses for just such eventualities. He asked that Master Management look into this problem, and Reva Behr, Acting President of Master Management, who was in attendance, said they would.

Jeff Gilman of Ashby noted that with the conversion of TV signals to high-definition digital format TV sets that use the old non-HDTV conversion boxes, do not get the Community Access channels of 98 and 99. Jeff asked that Master Management look into this problem with Comcast. At the same time, Jeff said he thought that Comcast had done a great job in upgrading the system since it took over from Adelphia.

At 11 a.m., the Chair called for a Motion to adjourn, which the directors approved.

Respectfully submitted by

KEN BARNETT